

	ROYAL GEOLOGICAL AND MINING SOCIETY OF THE NETHERLANDS	Number: NVC2 Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2014
	EurGeol NVC Regulations	Approval Authority
	Verification of diplomas in the Netherlands	KNGMG board

1 OBJECTIVE

The ensure that Dutch EurGeol candidates possess a valid diploma.

2 SCOPE

Regulation NVC2 covers the actions of the Dutch National Vetting Committee for the EurGeol title when verifying the diplomas of applicants.

3 RELATED REGULATIONS

- EFG Regulation E2: Procedure for award of title of European Geologist

4 PROCEDURE

4.1 Legal context

EFG Regulation E2 requires EurGeol applicants to provide authenticated copies of degrees/diplomas. Document copy authentication is a service commonly offered by Dutch municipalities but, on the request of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, this does not include diplomas and certificates anymore. The first reason for this is the lack of a legal basis for such authentication. And secondly, because a municipality cannot verify the original's authenticity, an authenticated copy introduces false security and has no evidential value.

Instead, the Ministry refers holders of Dutch diplomas to the National Diploma Register, established in 2012, which provides certified digital or paper excerpts from their records¹. The registers contains data of Dutch diplomas issued from 1996 onwards. The Ministry advises to have copies of pre-1996 or non-Dutch diplomas authenticated by the university that issued them. Alternatively, they could go to a notary. However, while a notary has the legal mandate to authenticate copies of any official document, he/she cannot vouch for the authenticity of an original diploma any better than a municipality.

These facts and considerations lead the Dutch NVC to deviate from EFG Regulation E2 when it comes to the verification of the diplomas of EurGeol title applicants.

4.2 Procedure for Dutch diplomas issued from 1996 onwards

Instead of an authenticated copy of the original diploma, the Dutch NVC requests a certified excerpt of the National Diploma Register as proof of having obtained appropriate training². A digital excerpt must be provided to the NVC digitally (i.e. not as a printout alone), so that the

¹ www.duo.nl

² A digital excerpt is provided free of charge, a paper excerpt costs €72,- (01/2014).

NVC can verify its digital certification³. The digital excerpt will be filed by the NVC; on the printout of the application documents that are submitted to the ILB, the NVC shall indicate that it performed digital verification.

4.3 Procedure for Dutch diplomas issued before 1996

Applicants holding a Dutch diploma issued before 1996 will provide the NVC with a copy of their diploma authenticated by the issuing university. The NVC will process it according to EFG Regulation E2.

4.4 Procedure for Non-Dutch diplomas

If, for practical or financial reasons, holders of a non-Dutch diploma cannot provide an authenticated copy of their diploma, the NVC will accept to be shown the original diploma, along with proof of authenticity or the way to verify this⁴. The burden of proof rests with the applicant. The NVC will indicate on the filed copy of the diploma how verification was carried out.

When authenticity cannot be assessed by the NVC in this way, it may consult with Nuffic, the Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education. Nuffic offers diploma recognition as a service, the costs of which rest with the applicant. Other than authenticity Nuffic also assesses the degree as such: it establishes whether the diploma is officially recognised and evaluates the diploma against the Dutch system (see also regulation NVC1).

³ The verification procedure is published by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

⁴ E.g. by consulting thesis repositories or other public records, or confirmation of the supervisor.